

8 Boat Travel Safety Tips



The most important aspect of boat travel is safety. This includes the safety of your boat and the safety of you and your loved ones while you're out on the water. You should always be prepared for any accidents or malfunctions that may occur, and you should have all of the skills and tools needed to resolve those malfunctions on board. Additionally, you should always have enough food and supplies to last you for at least a week in the event that your boat gets stranded. Below are eight [boat travel safety](#) tips to help you stay safe on the water.

1. Pack plenty of snacks for your trip.

When it comes to packing snacks for your boating trip, more is always better. It's better to have leftovers (that you can feed to the fishes) than to run out of sustenance and risk going hungry while you're out in the middle of a lake or ocean. Nuts and dried fruit are a great way to go if you want to stay energized and alert during your trip. Nuts are filling and nutritious — a perfect snack. Almonds, cashews, peanuts, and pistachios are easy to snack on and can last months without spoiling. Be sure to add some trail mix to your grocery list as you prepare for your next boating adventure!

2. Stay hydrated throughout the day.

It's always a good idea to store a water bottle and several extra tanks of drinking water

with you while you're on the water. Make sure that your water bottle and tanks are full and ready to go before you set out on your journey. It can be easy to forget to drink throughout the day, especially when you're staring at the water all day long and the thought of thirst doesn't even occur to you. But dehydration occurs quickly, particularly on sunny days, so [drink water](#) as frequently as possible — even if you don't think you need it.

3. Use a boat travel cover when stationary.

Even if you plan on staying in one place — say, docked at a marina or out in the ocean — it's always a good idea to cover your boat to protect it from the elements. Extreme weather conditions can ruin your boat in as little as a few hours, so to be safe and prevent extensive damage, use a [boat travel cover](#). They're relatively inexpensive, can be reused over and over, and will keep your boat looking great for years to come.

4. Check the weather beforehand.



You should always check the weather forecast before setting out on any boating trip. If a storm is coming, it's best to postpone your trip until a better day. When you go out in bad weather, you're putting your boat (not to mention yourself and your loved ones) in danger. No matter how great the fishing conditions might be or how beautiful the water is, it's simply not worth the risk. If you have any doubts about the weather or the safety of your trip, delay it as long as necessary.

5. Hire a professional to inspect your boat.

An annual boat inspection should be on every boater's to-do list. Even minor issues can lead to major problems, so you should never overlook small malfunctions or technical concerns. Hiring a professional to inspect your boat on a regular basis is a good way to be sure that everything is running smoothly and that your boat is seaworthy. A professional will check everything from the engine to the fuel tanks to ensure that you're ready to hit the water at any moment.

6. Wear a lifejacket at all times.

You should always wear an approved life jacket while you're on the water, even if you're just sitting around fishing or relaxing. If your boat capsizes, you only have approximately three minutes before your body loses energy, increasing the likelihood that you will go under. So make sure that your life jacket fits properly and stays securely fastened on your body at all times during your trip.

7. Take your boating experience seriously.

Boating is a lot of fun, but it can be scary, too. It can be easy to forget that you're in the middle of water and not on land if you're having fun and are enjoying yourself. Be sure to keep in mind just how dangerous the water is and try to stay as alert as possible at all times. Be prepared for every situation you may face on your trip, prepare your boat with caution, and do all you can to keep yourself and your loved ones safe on the water.

8. Read your boat's owner's manual.

You should read your [boat's owner's manual](#) completely and thoroughly before setting out on the water. You may think that you can just "figure out" a simple repair or maintenance task, but improper repairs can turn into deadly problems if you're not careful. If something fails on your boat, the owner's manual will have instructions on how to fix it quickly and safely so that you can resolve any issues without delay.